****

**Guide to Writing to Your MP**

**What is the purpose of this letter?**

Regulation in the UK is notionally “independent” of Government. This allows HM Treasury to blank MPs requesting change or action. Recent letter writing campaigns demanding action over FSCS costs have fallen down this rabbit hole. However, there is one Parliamentary body that has oversight and that is the Treasury Select Committee (TSC) which can order enquiries into any aspect of regulation.

**So, we are asking Mel Stride MP, Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee to embark on an enquiry on regulation and its costs.**

The more that MPs ask for this the more likely this is to happen. Select Committee Chairmen are extremely sensitive to backbench pressure.

**Who do I write to?**

You are at liberty to write to your MP based on your home address and the MP whose constituency hosts your office address. So are your staff – so with a bit of luck your firm could hit most of the MPs in an area.

Ensure that you show your Postcode for the relevant MP

If you want to be really adventurous you could encourage your clients to so too.

You can find them at the following link. Your MP can be found on <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons> Use your postcode/s to find your MP/s

In addition, you can write to

Mel Stride MP

Chairman

Treasury Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

**Post or Email?**

Email is quicker and easier for the MP to send between his London and Constituency offices for handling. That said you can post or do both. The MPs London address is on the draft letter below but at the link above you will also get his constituency address and phone numbers for both offices.

**Draft Letter**

We have amended other letters doing the rounds. Anything in [xxxxxx] requires you to fill in with your particular details.

**Remember – This is your letter.** The draft is just a guide not a format. Use it just to get your points across.

**How does the FSCS costs effect you!** Make this specific to your firm. Are you likely to employ more or less? Does it put your viability at risk? Does this cost mean you cannot develop something you were planning?

**Next Steps**

Currently, The FCA, FOS & FSCS, whilst statutory bodies, are “Independent” of Government oversight. This is the biggest issue.

Your MP may well have received a letter from the Treasury claiming that FSCS costs are nothing to do with them. This “independent” structure is both anti-democratic and it doesn’t work. That’s the reason we are doing the TSC Route - Your question to your MP is what is he/she doing to bring in new legislation?

**Surgery Meeting**

**You can’t beat a face to face meeting but the COVID means that most of these meetings are currently on Zoom or whatever.**

You can do it on your own, with your staff or with other adviser firms. To arrange meeting ring the constituency office. It can be found again at <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>

You need to know that an MP’s staff are regularly overstressed. They are a focal point of every eccentric and worse. So, befriend your local staff. It works!

When you have seen your MP please report back to policy@ifaa.co.uk so we can monitor who has been seen.